

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A computing resource management method comprising:
- establishing a pool of free computing resources in a computing
 system;
- 10 selecting a free computing resource from said pool of free
 computing resources to replace an operating computing resource
 in said computing system; and
- 15 configuring said selected free computing resource to operate in
 said computing system, after replacing said operating computing
 resource with said free computing resource in said computing
 system, wherein said free computing resources comprises
 resources not preconfigured for use in said computing system.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected free computing
 resource is configured to operate in accordance with a configuration
 of said operating computing resource being replaced.
- 25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected free computing
 resource is not configured to operate in accordance with a
 configuration of said operating resource being replaced.
- 30 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting and configuring said
 free computing resource is initiated automatically upon a failure of
 said operating computing resource in said computing system.
- 35 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting and configuring said
 free computing resource is initiated in response to an end-user
 request for a changed operating computing resource in said
 computing system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting and configuring of said free computing resource is based on a usage plan for using said free resources in said free pool of computing resources.
- 5 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said usage plan for using said free resources is implementable automatically in response to a failure of an operating computing resources in said computing system.
- 10 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting and configuring said free computing resource to replace said operating computing resource occurs transparently to end-users in said computing system.
- 15 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said computing system comprises a Utility Data Center.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein said computing system comprises a computer network.
- 20 11. The method of claim 1, further including monitoring said computing system to detect failed operating computing resources.
- 25 12. The method of claim 11, further including relegating said failed operating computing resources to a pool of quarantined computing resources.
- 30 13. The method of claim 12, further including rehabilitating said failed operating computing resources for reprovisioning into said computing system.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein said computing resources comprises routers, servers, data storage systems and CPU's.
- 35 15. A computing resource management system comprising:
a pool of free computing resource in a computing system;

a pool of operating computing resource operating in said computing system; and

means for selecting a selected free computing resource from said pool of free computing resources to replace a first operating computing resource in said computing system; and

means for configuring said selected free computing resource to operate in said computing system after replacing said first operating computing resource with said selected free computing resource, wherein said free computing resources comprises resources not preconfigured for use in said computing system.

16. The computing resource management system of claim 15, wherein said means for configuring said selected free computing resource is operable to configure said selected free computing resource to operate in accordance with a configuration of said first operating resource being replaced.

17. The computing resource management system of claim 15, wherein said means for configuring said selected free computing resource is operable to configure said selected free computing resource not to operate in accordance with a configuration of said first operating resource being replaced.

18. The computing resource management system of claim 15, wherein said means for configuring said selected free computing resource is operable to automatically configure said selected computing resource to operate in said computing system upon a failure of said first operating computing resource in said computing system.

19. The computing resource management system of claim 15, wherein said means for configuring said selected free computing resource is operable to automatically configure said selected free computing resource in response to an end-user request for changing said first operating computing resource in said computing system.

20. The computing resource management system of claim 15, wherein said means for configuring said selected free computing resource is operable to configure said selected free computing resources transparently to an end-user in said computing system.

21. The computing resource management system of claim 15, wherein said means for configuring said selected free computing resources is operable to configure said selected free computing resources based on a usage plan for using said free computing resources in said free computing resource pool.

22. A computer-useable storage medium comprising computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to implement a computing resource management method instructions, said program code including a resource manager module, said resource manager module comprising instructions for:

monitoring a pool of free computing resources in a computing system;

selecting a selected free computing resource from said pool of free computing resources to replace an operating computing resource in said computing system; and

configuring said selected free computing resource to operate in said computing system after replacing said operating computing resource with said selected free computing resource, wherein said free computing resources comprises resources not preconfigured for use in said computing system.

23. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instructions for monitoring said operating computing resources in said computing system.

24. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instructions for detecting failures of said operating computing resource in said computing system.

25. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instructions for configuring said selected free computing resource to operate in accordance with a configuration of said operating computing resource being replaced.
26. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instructions for configuring said selected free computing resource not to operate in accordance with a configuration of said operating resource being replaced.
27. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instructions for selecting and configuring said free computing resource automatically upon detecting a failure of said operating computing resource in said computing system.
28. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instructions for selecting and configuring said free computing resource based on an end-user request for operating computing resource in said computing system.
29. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instruction for selecting and configuring said free computing resource transparently to an end-user in said computing system.
30. The computer-useable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said resource manager module includes instruction for selecting and configuring said free computing resource based on a usage plan for using computing resources from said free computing resources pool.